

The University of Michigan • Dearborn

4901 Evergreen Road • Dearborn, Michigan 48128
(313) 271-2300

10/27

ANS'D
11/25

Office of Individualized Learning
E. C. Hertzler, Associate Dean

Brett Bilbrey
14430 Barclay
Dearborn, Michigan 48126

Dear Sir,

I am a student working at the University of Michigan in the Office of Individualized Learning. Our department deals with forms of individualized learning, such as video productions, audio tapes, and computerized devices that tutor students. It is with these computerized devices that I came in contact with the Bally.

For work purposes we required a dependable and at the time available computer system, and the TRS-80 was chosen to do what work we required. But in the comparison we included the Bally because of its projected capabilities with the add-on unit. Because ~~it~~ was *the Bally* not ready for production the TRS-80 won. But, I was caught!!!!

I picked up a Bally in March, but had to return it for another because of heating problems. My existing Bally is of the ~~the~~ second run. So enough of the background. I've received thru a friend all of Bally's cartridges, the BASIC, and the interface. The latest cartridges are;

Panzer Attack and Red Baron
Clowns and Brickyard
Blackjack, Poker, and Acey-Deucey

(as of 10/27/78)

If you do not already have these cartridges they should be in your area soon. Also, a Star Wars cartridge is due by 11/11/78 but that means two weeks later.

The reason I am writing is I heard that you are starting a user group and would like to receive information in exchange for what secrets that I know of the Bally and some fantastic (at least I think there are) programs written by a computer programmer here at U of M. For example Life, Compucolor's cannon program-shoot, a four player laser game, and others. The way we have been able to *Similar to* write these programs is by commands that are not listed in the manual but are still there. ~~the~~ the STOP, and ABS(x) commands. You may know of these but if not can we arrange an exchange of information. Also, I can directly access the music processor thru the Master Oscillator Frequency, the Vibrato System, the Noise System, and the Volume register. This lends to realistic explosions and other sounds. I also have been able to display more than two colors on the screen using BASIC and have found more graphics commands. (this is what makes the games FANTASTIC.)

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I would like to make note to those interested in modifying there Ballys, the PA-1 Service Manual applies only to the first run of machines and many changes have been made. (i.e. the four ROM's have been replaced by one, and minor shifting of positions of certian parts) The changes are not much but check before making ~~any~~ modifications.

I would like to mention an article on the Bally BASIC by one of the Prof.'s here. Dr. Zinn has written an introductory article which can be found in the Sept-Oct issue of creative computing.

I have rushed writing this letter after having found out about your group(so please forgive my typing. My printer has been out of wack and manual retyping this is frightening)

Please include myself and my friends in your user group and I'm sure that our contrabutions will be informitive and useful.

Thank you,

Brett Bilbrey
Brett Bilbrey
EE student

Please correspond to:

Brett Bilbrey
14430 Barclay
Dearborn, Michigan

P.S. if you have an interface it may be interesting to exchange listings and tapes of programs.
P.P.S. again please forgive the mistakes, and attribute them to my joy of finding a user group for Bally.